

Commercial news

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COMMERCIAL NEWS

Industrialization in Soleure.

Soleure is the most industrialized Canton in Switzerland. This becomes apparent from a perusal of the recent publication of the results of the last census. The farming population now only represents 12 per cent of the total population. On the other hand, industry's share has increased, since the end of the last century, from 46 to 64 per cent.

The iron and metal industry ranks first among the industries of this Canton, followed by the machine and apparatus industry, and the watch-making industry. The clothing and footwear industry, also occupy an outstanding position, as does the paper-making industry.

Aluminium Industry in Switzerland.

The Société anonyme pour l'industrie de l'aluminium, recently opened the doors of its plant at Chippis to the Press.

It was in 1892, as a matter of fact, that the first laboratory for aluminium was created at Neuhausen, near Schaffhausen. 15 years later, the new company erected a big factory at Chippis, provided with its own hydro-electric plants.

To-day, the plant at Chippis employs 2,000 workmen and employees. It produces raw aluminium, various kinds of alloys, and semi-manufactured products such as sheet-iron, iron bands, circular plates, sections, tubes, and aluminium powder which is used both for painting purposes and for pyrotechnics, and also aluminium paper.

At the present time, the Société anonyme pour l'industrie de l'aluminium constitutes a holding company, which comprises no less than 44 companies, of which 14 are in Switzerland and 30 abroad. It is in a position to carry out all the processes of fabrication, beginning with the extraction of bauxite and ending with semi-manufactured products. The raw metal is produced in 4 plants, both Swiss and foreign,

to the amount of 100,000 tons of aluminium per year. Consumption of electricity on the part of these 4 plants attains 2 thousand million kWh. per year, this figure representing almost double the one of the Federal Railways.

Experimental research regarding the problem of growing old.

In view of the increase in the average length of life, science is devoting a growing interest to the problem of ageing. In spite of the incalculable number of works which have already appeared on this subject, experimental research and study of these problems still offers great possibilities. Thus, the CIBA Foundation in London, which was created by an important Swiss firm belonging to the chemical industry, has decided to allocate the sum of £5,000 each year, for the next 5 years, for the promotion of such research work. This grant will serve to encourage scientific work, to organize international meetings, discussions and conferences and to constitute travel scholarships. Five prizes of about £300 each will be awarded for original works, which have not yet been published, dealing with problems of this kind.

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